AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A method for the therapy of a human diagnosed with portal hypertension, the method comprising administering an anti-portal hypertension effective dose of an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5), or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibiter, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is administered to a said human.

2 (Currently amended). A method for the therapy of a human diagnosed with ~~against~~ one or more of the following diseases or complications in humans, bleeding complications of the portal hypertension, hepato-renal syndrome, hepato-pulmonal syndrome, hepatic encephalopathy, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis and ascites, the method comprising administering to ~~a~~ said human a portal blood flow increasing amount of an inhibitor of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE 5), or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor.

3 (Currently amended). A method for the therapy of a human diagnosed with a disorder of the metabolism or of the blood circulation in connection with the liver, leucocytopeny, thrombocytopeny, a disorder in the synthesis of blood clotting factors, a disorder of brain functioning, or a healthy liver threatened by an endogenous toxic substance or by consumption of one or more medicaments, drugs, alcohol, or similar exogenous toxic substances~~against illnesses or disease conditions in humans~~, which can be controlled by a decrease of the portal vein pressure and/or by an increase of the portal vein flow, or which can be prevented thereby, the method comprising administering to a human, respectively,

a portal vein pressure decreasing amount and/or a portal vein flow increasing amount of a PDE 5-inhibitor, or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor.

4 (Currently amended). The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, the method further comprising therapy of a human diagnosed with ~~against~~ bleedings from oesophagus varices and/or fundus varices.

5 (Withdrawn). A method for influencing the metabolism of a substance, wherein the influencing involves an increase of the portal vein flow and, thus, an increase of a blood. flow through the liver, the method comprising administering to a human a portal blood flow increasing amount of a PDE 5-inhibitor, or of a pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor.

6 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 5, wherein the influencing involves an enhanced metabolic decomposition of an exogenously added substance in the liver.

7 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 5, wherein the substance is an exogenously added substance, which is incorporated concurrently with, after, or particularly prior to the administering of the PDE 5-inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor, and/or wherein the exogenous substance is selected from the group consisting of medicaments, drugs or toxic substances such as ethyl alcohol.

8 (Previously presented). The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is selected froth the group consisting of Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Vardenafil.

9 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 8, wherein Vardenafil is selected as the PDE 5-inhibitor.

10. Cancelled.

11 (Previously presented). The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7 or 9, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition containing a PDE 5-inhibitor is administered orally.

12 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 11, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is administered orally as a single dose in an amount of 0.01 to 10~~, particularly 0.1 to 1.5~~ mg PDE 5-inhibitor per kg body weight of a human.

13 (Withdrawn). The method. according to any one of claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 or 11, the method comprising administering the PDE 5-inhibiter in combination with an additional substance, which is selected from the group of β-blockers, Vasopressin and analogs thereof as well as Somatostatin and analogs thereof.

14 (Withdrawn). Combination-medication for the prophylaxis and/or therapy against portal hypertension and/or against disease conditions or risks which are associated with the portal hypertension,
wherein the combination medication comprises the following combination, in a common or in separate application form(s):

- a PDE 5-Inhibitor, and
- another drug against portal hypertension..

15 (Withdrawn). Combination-medication according to claim 14; wherein the other drug against portal hypertension is selected from conventional drugs against portal

hypertension, particularly from a group consisting of β-blockers, Vasopressin and analogs thereof as well as Somatostatin and analogs thereof.

16 (Withdrawn). Combination-medication according to claim 14, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Vardenafil.

17 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the effective dose is administered orally as a single dose in an amount of 0.01 to 10 mg per kg body weight of a human.

18 (New). The method according to claim 3, wherein the disorders of the metabolism or of the blood circulation in connection with the liver include any one of: a detoxification disorder, a reduced or disturbed decomposition/catabolism of a medicament, a wrong substance breakdown, a build-up of a detour circulation around the liver, an immune- or protection-deficiency, and a congestion of blood in the spleen.

19 (New). The method according to claim 11, wherein the PDE 5-inhibitor is administered orally as a single dose in an amount of 0.1 to 1.5 mg PDE 5-inhibitor per kg body weight of a human.